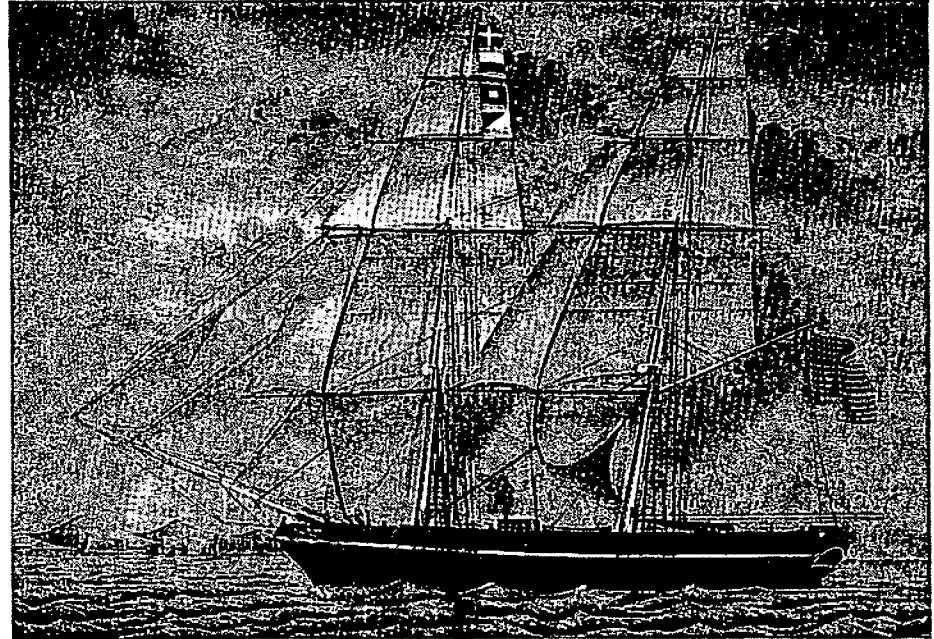


## SHIPS AND SHIPPING

The following is the text from "Shipbuilding on North River" by L. Vernon Briggs 1889:

"In 1825, the Fosters built the SMYRNA, which became famous ever after — she carried the American Stars and Stripes into the Black Sea for the first time. She was owned by Ezra Weston of Duxbury, and commanded by Capt. Seth Sprague, one of the old school shipmasters living in 1889, in South Marshfield, and one of Neptune's old veterans. He has had varied experience on the great deep, from his first enlisting as a sailor, in his youthful days, until his riper years found him in command of as proud a ship as at that time sailed the ocean. Capt. Sprague was born in Marshfield, Mass., Aug. 6, 1798. He married in 1825, Miss W.L. Ford of Marshfield, and he says, "From that time on, success attended me." His first voyage was at the age of seventeen, with Capt. John Southard, in the good ship "William & James". On account of his excellent conduct and seamanship, he was promoted to the office of mate, and but a short time elapsed before he was offered the command of the SMYRNA, by Ezra Weston of Duxbury, for whom he sailed twenty four years. He accepted, and sailed her for five years. While in command of the *SMYRNA*, he carried, in 1830, the American Flag into the Black Sea. *This was the first time the American Flag ever floated over this sea.*"

Descendants of Capt. Sprague, the Fords and the Westons still reside in the towns of these proud men and add a continuity to this project and other historical endeavors which is indeed rare in today's transient society.



Brig SMYRNA of Duxbury  
Built 1825 - Foster & Co. Shipyard, Norwell (then So. Scituate)  
Original watercolor 21 1/4 " x 17 1/2 " signed Peter Mazzinghi Leghorn, Nov. 1834

NORWELL